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Liliana Falcone
The Bird of Prey takes flight.

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LILIANA FALCONE Like her namesake she stalks her quarry from afar, judging, gauging, waiting for the right moment to strike, for she is Liliana Falcone – Bird of Prey.
Script: Mitchel Scanlon • Art: Richard Elson • Letters: Fiona Stephenson

LAST STAND ON YAYOR The planet Lyttos lies in ruins before Warmaster Abaddon's invasion. The forces of Chaos look towards victory. But then the Doom Eagles arrive...
Script: Gordon Rennie • Art. Karl Richardson • Letters: Fiona Stephenson

JIM ALEXANDER Take one comic book writer, one assistant editor, a comic book convention and a hotel bar and what do you get? Why, it's the Warhammer Monthly interview with Jim 'Deathwatch' Alexander, of course!

DISPOSABLE HEROES It may be better than hard labour but the only way you leave the Savlar Chem-dogs is in a body bag!
Script: Si Spurrier • Art: P.J. Holden • Letters: Fiona Stephenson

TITAN Thrust through the reality bending warp, the crew of Imperius Dictatio find themselves trapped on a bizarre alien world. (For the full Titan back story visit www.blacklibrary.com/titan)
Script: Dan Abnett • Art: Anthony Williams • Letters. Fiona Stephenson

I'D LIKE TO

start this issue by thanking each and every one of you who voted in the recent National Comic Awards for making sure that Warhammer Monthly and the Black Library gave such a good account of ourselves on the night. Although we narrowly missed out on the prestigious Comic of the Year award we did scoop the Borders Books Award for Graphic Novel of the Year with Daemonifuge, and Dan Abnett was voted Best Writer – Now, in no small part for his work on Lone Wolves, The Warhammer, Darkblade and Titan. Many other Warhammer Monthly creators, strips and characters were also recognised in the voting and full details of these can be found in the full report next issue. Once again, thanks for voting for us and letting the rest of the world know just how great the galaxy's greatest monthly really is. *CD*

Warhammer Monthly Gnasher-bashing issue 72

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LILIANA FALCONE
BIRD OF PREY
IT WAS AN EXERCISE IN CAUTION, AND THE DISPOSAL OF LOOSE ENDS, THAT BROUGHT THE COURIER ARNOLDT BALCK FROM MARIENBURG THAT NIGHT.

BROUGHT HIM TO THE BACKROOM OF A DOCKSIDE TAVERN IN THE TILEAN CITY OF REMAS, TO MEET WITH A HIRED KILLER AT THE BEHEST OF HIS MASTER, THE FREETRADER HEINRICH KLUG.
BROUGHT HIM THERE ON AN ERRAND OF TREACHERY AND MURDER.

IT REALLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN A SIMPLE MATTER. THE ASSASSIN HAD RECENTLY COMPLETED A KILLING ON KLUG'S BEHALF, AND NOW, PAYMENT WAS DUE
BUT ARNOLDT'S EMPLOYER WAS A SUSPICIOUS MAN AND SEEING NO GOOD REASON TO TRUST TO THE DISCRETION OF A KILLER, HAD DEVISED A MORE LASTING SOLUTION

THE MEETING WAS A TRAP; WITH HALF-A-DOZEN ARMED MEN WAITING OUTSIDE TO AMBUSH THE ASSASSIN ONCE IT HAD ENDED.
NONE OF WHICH WOULD HAVE CONCERNED ARNOLDT UNDULY, EXCEPT - AND FOR THIS HE SILENTLY CURSED HIS ABSENT MASTER - IT WAS A TRAP IN WHICH HE WAS BAIT

NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT NIGHT, ARNOLDT SOUGHT TO REASSURE HIMSELF AS TO HIS OWN SAFETY. HE HAD A PISTOL AT HAND, AFTER ALL, AND HIS MEN WERE WITHIN EARSHOT
AND THERE WAS NO WAY THIS ASSASSIN - THIS WOMAN - COULD KNOW SHE WAS WALKING INTO A TRAP!
BIRD OF PREY?
TONIGHT, SHE MIGHT AS WELL BE...
A Lamb to the Slaughter

STORY MITCHEL SCANLON • ART RICHARD ELSON • LETTERS FIONA STEPHENSON

ALL HE NEED DO WAS HOLD HIS NERVE AND EVERYTHING WOULD BE--
ARNOLOT BALCK?
SNAP
I SEEM TO HAVE STARTLED YOU
NO... I... AH... DID NOT HEAR YOU APPROACH...
MY APOLOGIES, THEN AN ASSASSIN LIVES BY STEALTH, AND IT CAN BE A DIFFICULT HABIT TO BREAK.
YOU ARE ... THE BIRD OF PREY?
CALL ME LILIANA, PLEASE
NOW I TAKE IT YOU HAVE BROUGHT THE BALANCE OF MY FEE?
YES. HERE. IN GOLD DUCATS, AS YOU INSTRUCTED. DO YOU WISH TO COUNT IT BEFORE YOU LEAVE?
LATER. PERHAPS FIRST, I SHOULD MAKE MY REPORT
REPORT?
POP
YES. IT IS CUSTOMARY TO GIVE A FULL REPORT TO THE EMPLOYER OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE - UPON THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF ANY CONTRACT.
AND, BESIDES-
IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO LET THIS EXCELLENT VINTAGE GO TO WASTE...

I DON T KNOW HOW FAMILIAR YOU ARE WITH YOUR EMPLOYER'S WIDER BUSINESS DEALINGS
-BUT RECENTLY HEINRICH KLUG AND SOME FELLOW MERCHANTS FORMED A CARTEL WITH THE AIM OF MAKING MARIENBURG THE SOLE TRADE ROUTE BETWEEN TILEA AND THE EMPIRE.
IN THIS THEY WERE QUITE NATURALLY OPPOSED BY THOSE TRADING INTERESTS WHOSE FORTUNES DEPENDED ON THE OVERLAND ROUTE VIA THE BORDER PRINCES.

" NOT LEAST BY A POWERFUL MERCHANT OF THE CITY OF TRANTIO ONE GIUSEPPI CAUTO.

AS RIVALS, CAUTO AND KLUG WERE EVENLY MATCHED. AND, HAVING FAILED TO BREAK HIS ADVERSARY BY EITHER BLACKMAIL, BRIBERY OR INTIMIDATION-

TOK!
-IT WAS INEVITABLE KLUG WOULD IN TIME TURN TO LESS RESPECTABLE METHODS.

WHICH IS WHERE I CAME IN.
NOW EVEN BY THE STANDARDS OF TILEA, WHERE 'THE GREAT-AND-GOOD LIVE IN CONSTANT FEAR OF ASSASSINATION, THIS CAUTO WAS AN EXCEPTIONALLY CAUTIOUS AND CAREFUL MAN. '

HIS HOUSE, WHICH HE RARELY LEFT, WAS A FORTRESS GUARDED DAY-AND-NIGHT-
- WHILE HE WOULD EAT ONLY THE MEALS PREPARED BY HIS PERSONAL CHEF, AND EMPLOYED A HALFLING FOOD-TASTER BESIDES
OF COURSE, TO THE WELL-PREPARED ASSASSIN, SUCH THINGS ARE, AT WORST, MINOR INCONVENIENCES.
SKREESH!
THE REAL DANGER LIES IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR WHICH ONE CAN NEVER TRULY PREPARE-
- UNSEASONABLE RAINFALL, UNEXPECTED CHANGES IN THE TIMING OF THE GUARDS, A LOOSE ROOF TILE
THE UNFORESEEN.
BUT, IN MURDER, AS IN SO MUCH IN LIFE, PERSISTENCE IS A VIRTUE.
AND, IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED..
IT WAS AT ABOUT THIS TIME THAT A NEW APOTHECARY AN ELDERLY WOMAN WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE ONCE BEEN NURSE TO PRINCE BORGIO THE BESIEGER - BEGAN TO PLY HER TRADE IN TRANTIO'S CENTRAL PIAZZA.
- LET ME TEMPT YOU WITH MY WARES
SHE FACED COMPETITION OF COURSE ANY MAJOR CITY BOASTS DOZENS OF HEALERS AND SUCCESS OR FAILURE IS LARGELY A MATTER OF REPUTATION
madam rosaria
Let me cure your ills
AN OLD CRONE WHOSE AGED AND WITHERED APPEARANCE OWED NO SMALL DEBT TO THE LIBERAL APPLICATION OF FACE-POWDER AND MASKING-PUTTY
IMPOTENCE! BALDNESS! BOWEL COMPLAINTS! WHY I CAN CURE THEM ALL! COME FRIENDS

BUT, FORTUITOUSLY, HER ARRIVAL COINCIDED WITH THE WORST OUTBREAK OF MASS POISONING IN RECENT MEMORY-
- AN OUTBREAK LATER ATTRIBUTED TO THE DELIVERY OF A BAD BATCH OF FLOUR TO A LOCAL BAKER.
(THOUGH, REST ASSURED, THE FLOUR WAS ONLY POISONED WITH SOMETHING TO MAKE THE TOWNSPEOPLE ILL, NOT KILL THEM, INDISCRIMINATE SLAUGHTER IS THE MARK OF THE AMATEUR.)
WHATEVER THE CAUSE, THE CITIZENS OF TRANTIO HAD GOOD REASON TO PRAISE THEIR NEW APOTHECARY'S SKILLS, AND SOON, HER REPUTATION WAS ASSURED.
madame Rosaria
TELL YOUR FRIEND TO RUB A LITTLE OF THIS ON IT TWICE A DAY AND THAT TROUBLING RASH SHOULD CLEAR UP IN NO TIME...
WHICH ONLY LEFT THE MATTER OF CAUTO'S HALFLING FOOD-TASTER ..
HEY! I SAID YOU COULD SAMPLE THEM, HAIR-FOOT, NOT EAT ME OUT OF BUSINESS--
CHEESE
A PROBLEM SOLVED
OW!
WITH THE AID OF A SMALL POISONED NEEDLE
ARE YOU IN PAIN, MY LITTLE MAN?
I...UM...AAH... MUST HAVE BEEN A MOSQUITO...
YES, THEY CAN BE NASTY THIS TIME OF YEAR-
- POSITIVELY DEADLY.

AND SOON...
POISONED, YOU SAY? THIS IS TERRIBLE... FETCH AN APOTHECARY AT ONCE!
I FEAR IT IS TOO LATE FOR THAT, MY LORD. HE'S ALREADY TOO FAR GONE—
'NOT FOR HIM, YOU FOOL-'
-FOR ME!'
THANK THE GODS YOU CAME! YOU MUST HELP ME - I HAVE BEEN POISONED-
I'LL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT. YOUNG MAN NOW, LET US SEE ABOUT YOUR SYMPTOMS.
DRY TONGUE?
QUEASY STOMACH?
PALPITATIONS OF THE HEART?
YES.
YES.
SWEET GODS, I'M DOOMED...
NOW NOW THESE THINGS ARE EASILY FIXED. IN FACT, I THINK I HAVE AN ANTIDOTE RIGHT HERE IN MY BAG...
PLEASE QUICKLY! I'LL GIVE YOU HALF OF EVERYTHING I OWN
NO NEED FOR THAT, YOUNG MAN. JUST MY USUAL FEE-
I HAVE ALWAYS FOUND MY WORK TO BE ITS OWN REWARD.

AFTER THAT, IT WAS SIMPLY A MATTER OF LEAVING TRANTIO BEFORE THE ANTIDOTE I HAD GIVEN CAUTO TOOK ITS EFFECT.
OF COURSE, WHEN USED PROPERLY, POISONS ARE ONE OF THE MOST USEFUL TOOLS AVAILABLE TO THE ASSASSIN.
IT IS A QUESTION OF THEIR IMPERCEPTIBILITY: WITH NIMBLE HANDS AND A FAST-DISSOLVING PELLET OF POISON, ALMOST ANY BEVERAGE BECOMES A LETHAL POTION.
BUT THEN-
TNK!
- I NEED HARDLY TELL YOU THAT
STILL, PERHAPS THE NEXT TIME HEINRICH KLUG ASKS YOU TO HELP HIM BETRAY SOMEONE, YOU WILL GIVE IT MORE THOUGHT.
THOUGH, I AM FORGETTING-
- THERE WILL NOT BE A NEXT TIME..
WITH THAT, LILIANA FALCONE TOOK HER LEAVE
OUTSIDE, SHE PASSED THE BODIES OF THE MEN SHE HAD SPOTTED LYING IN WAIT FOR HER EARLIER IN THE EVENING, PASSED THEM WITH BARELY A THOUGHT.
SHE HAD NO TIME FOR TRIFLES. WITHIN THE HOUR A SHIP WOULD BE LEAVING THE HARBOUR - A SHIP BOUND FOR MARIENBURG - AND SHE WOULD BE ON IT
WITH COMPLIMENTS
SHE HAD UNFINISHED BUSINESS THERE WITH ONE HEINRICH KLUG WHICH SHE WOULD NOT CARE TO SEE DELAYED...
THE END

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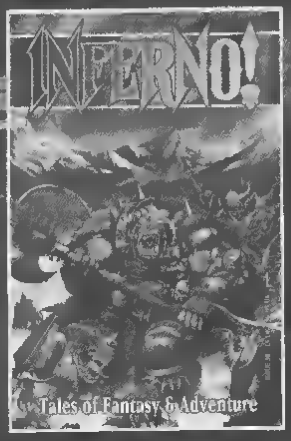

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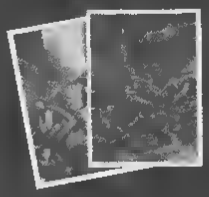

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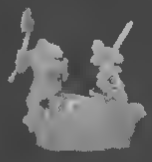

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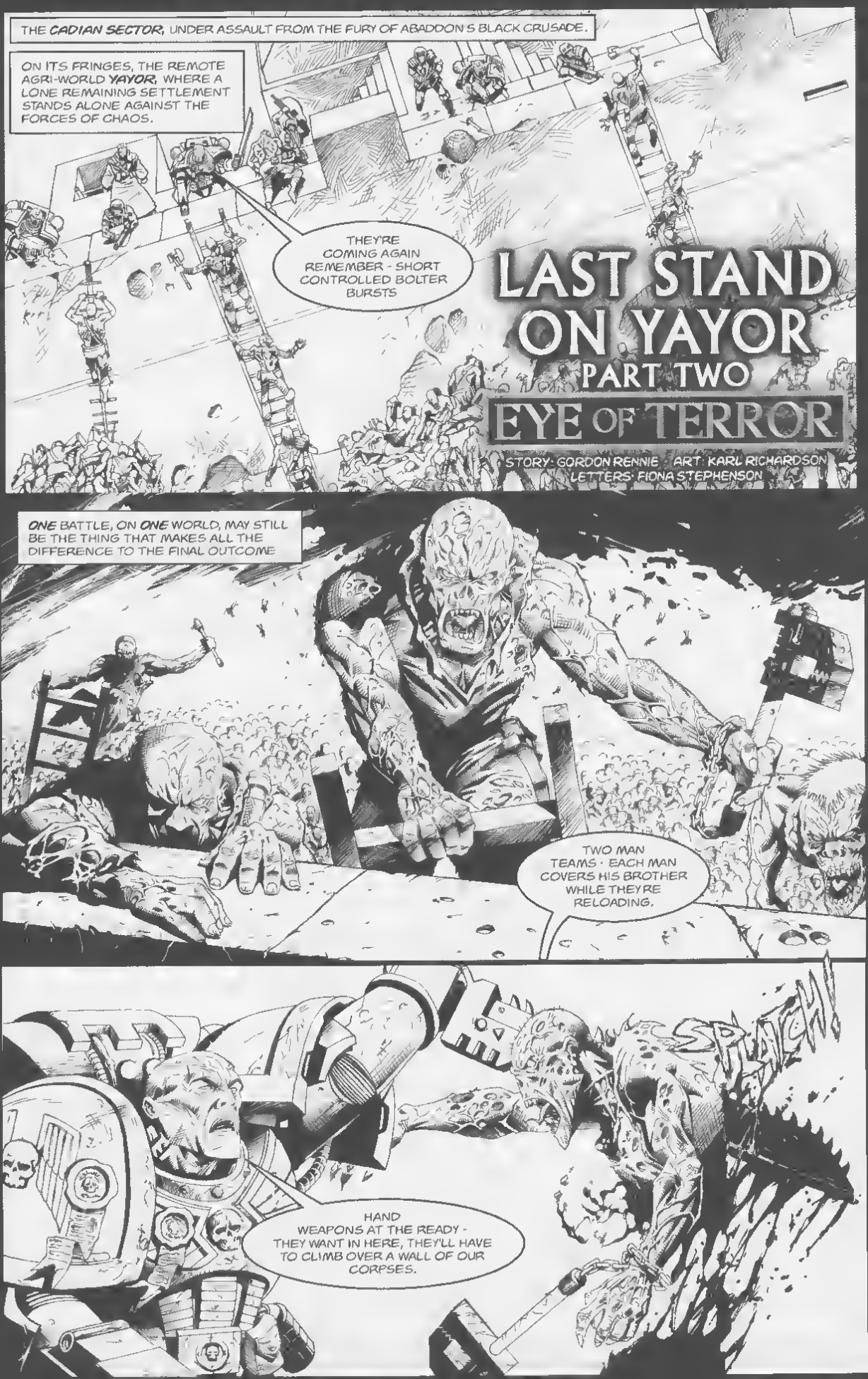
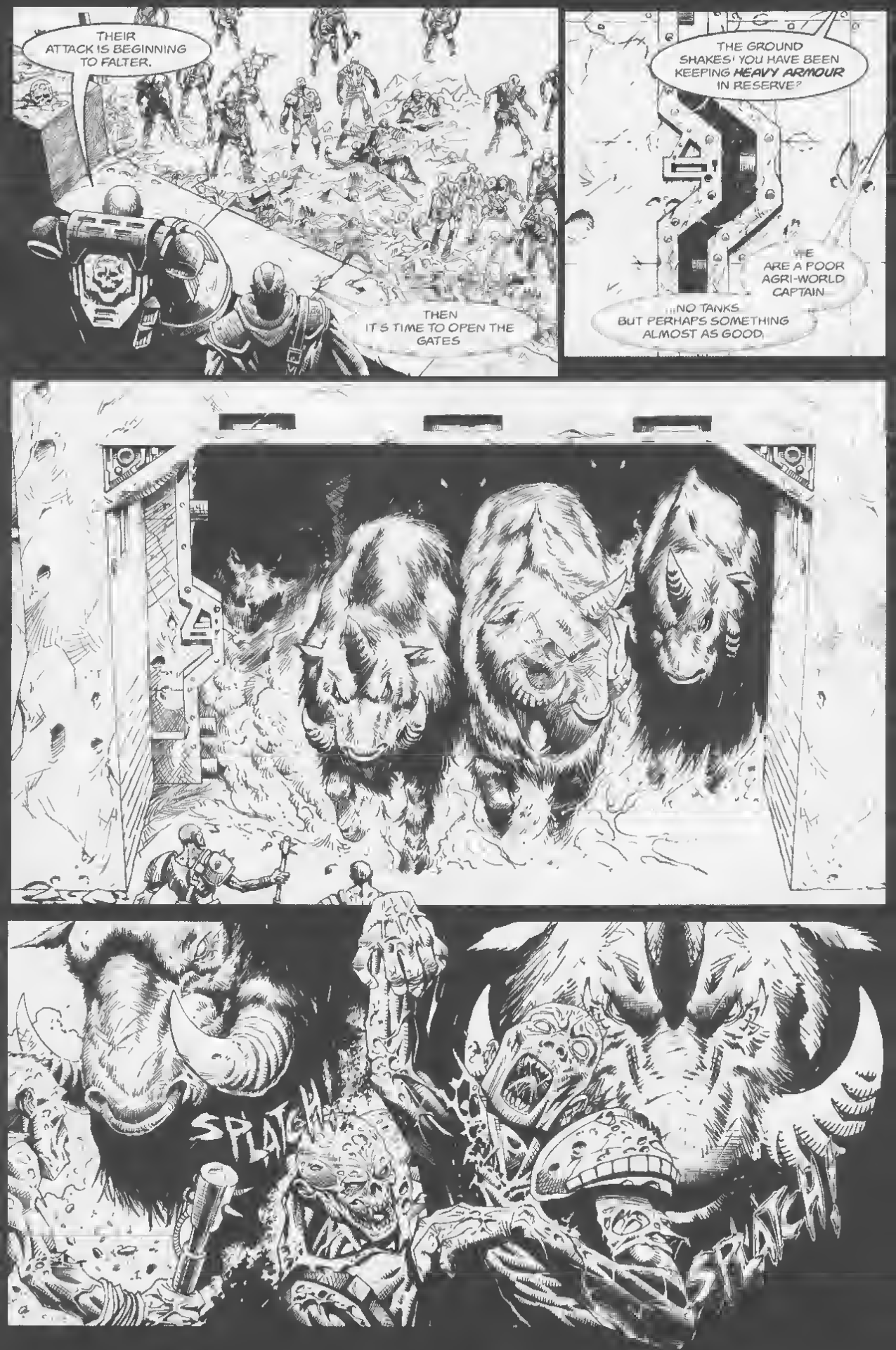

THE CADIAN SECTOR, UNDER ASSAULT FROM THE FURY OF ABADDON'S BLACK CRUSADE.
ON ITS FRINGES, THE REMOTE AGRI-WORLD YAYOR, WHERE A LONE REMAINING SETTLEMENT STANDS ALONE AGAINST THE FORCES OF CHAOS.
THEY'RE COMING AGAIN REMEMBER - SHORT CONTROLLED BOLTER BURSTS
LAST STAND ON YAYOR
PART TWO
EYE OF TERROR
STORY: GORDON RENNIE · ART: KARL RICHARDSON
LETTERS: FIONA STEPHENSON
ONE BATTLE, ON ONE WORLD, MAY STILL BE THE THING THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE TO THE FINAL OUTCOME
TWO MAN TEAMS · EACH MAN COVERS HIS BROTHER WHILE THEY'RE RELOADING.
HAND WEAPONS AT THE READY - THEY WANT IN HERE, THEY'LL HAVE TO CLIMB OVER A WALL OF OUR CORPSES.
SPLATCH!

HOW GOES THE BATTLE ON THIS SIDE, CAPTAIN?
AS WELL AS I FEARED OR EXPECTED, CONFESSOR.
FOUR HOURS OF ENDLESS ASSAULTS. EIGHT BROTHERS DEAD OR SERIOUSLY INJURED, NO GRENADES OR FLAMER FUEL LEFT, AND PRECIOUS LITTLE IN THE WAY OF HEAVY WEAPONS AMMUNITION.
PERHAPS I HAVE SOMETHING HERE TO HELP YOU.
WE DO NOT NEED ALCOHOL TO BOLSTER OUR COURAGE, PRIEST, NOR IS IT MY CHAPTER'S WAY TO CELEBRATE OUR VICTORIES...
...ESPECIALLY WHEN THE BATTLE IS FAR FROM WON
YAYORIAN WHEAT LIQUOR. NOT FOR THE WEAK OF STOMACH. VERY STRONG, VERY POTENT
AND VERY FLAMMABLE.


THEIR ATTACK IS BEGINNING TO FALTER.
THEN IT'S TIME TO OPEN THE GATES
THE GROUND SHAKES! YOU HAVE BEEN KEEPING HEAVY ARMOUR IN RESERVE?
WE ARE A POOR AGRI-WORLD CAPTAIN
NO TANKS BUT PERHAPS SOMETHING ALMOST AS GOOD.
SPLAT!
SPLAT!

THEY'RE RUNNING-!
FOR THE MOMENT, BUT THEY'LL BE BACK, ONCE THEY'VE REORGANISED THEIR BATTLE LINES
AND NEXT TIME WE WON'T HAVE ANY MORE OROX BEASTS TO USE AGAINST THEM THAT WAS OUR ENTIRE HERD STOCK
THEY GRAZE HERE EVERY WINTER BEFORE WE TAKE THEM UP TO ATHENE FOR SLAUGHTER AND TRANSPORTATION OFF-WORLD
WE'RE JUST A REMOTE AGRI-WORLD, WITH NO STRATEGIC VALUE WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO US, CAPTAIN?
YAYOR IS THE LARGEST OF SEVERAL AGRI-WORLDS IN THIS SYSTEM
IF WE FAIL HERE, THE PLAGUE ZOMBIE CONTAGION THAT HAS TAKEN ROOT HERE WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO THOSE WORLDS TOO THIS ENTIRE SYSTEM WILL BE LOST TO THE IMPERIUM, AS WILL THE FOOD RESOURCES IT PRODUCES FOR THE EMPEROR'S ARMIES.
WITH THE WAR AT SUCH A CRITICAL POINT, ANY NEW FACTOR SUCH AS A SHORTAGE OF FOOD SUPPLIES TO OUR FORCES, MAY BE ALL IT TAKES TO MAKE THE ENEMY'S FINAL VICTORY A REALITY
THAT IS WHY WE HAVE BEEN SENT HERE, PRIEST TO ENSURE THAT THE CHAOS CONTAGION IN THIS SYSTEM IS CONTAINED ONLY TO THIS WORLD
BUT THIS WORLD,. THESE PEOPLE.
-.ARE UNIMPORTANT WHEN SET AGAINST THE GREATER THINGS AT STAKE HERE

IF WE FAIL HERE, YOUR PEOPLE WILL BECOME LIKE THOSE CREATURES OUT THERE MINDLESSLY CARRYING OUT THE ENEMY'S BIDDING AND SPREADINGTHE PLAGUE TO OTHER WORLDS
I CANNOT ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN
THEN YOU WOULD SACRIFICE MY WORLD AND ITS PEOPLE?
MY COMPANY'S STRIKE CRUISER IS IN ORBIT ABOVE US. ITS MISSILES ARE PRIMED ITS SERVITOR CREW ARE AWAITING MY COMMAND
I PRAY IT WILL NOT COME TO THAT, PRIEST. BUT I AM READY TO DO MY DUTY
MY BROTHERS AND I ARE DOOM EAGLES. THE BLOOD OF THE EMPEROR FLOWS THROUGH OUR VEINS AND WE WILL FIGHT TO THE LAST DROP OF THAT BLOOD TO DEFEND THIS PLACE BUT I WARN YOU NOW PRIEST...
—IF WE FAIL, I WILL NOT HESITATE TO GIVE THE COMMAND TO DESTROY THIS WORLD AND EVERYTHING ON IT
END OF PART TWO

EYE OF TERROR

DECIDE THE FATE OF YAYOR!
AT WWW.BLACKLIBRARY.COM/EYEOFTERROR

And thus the fate of Yayor hangs in the balance. If the settlement falls then the world will be lost, obliterated by the Doom Eagles strike cruiser orbiting the agri-world. But there is a choice, a choice which you, the reader has to make: will Yayor live or will it die?

From the 24 July to 24 August 2003, readers will be able to log on to www.blacklibrary.com/eyeofterror and vote for how they think Last Stand on Yayor should conclude. These votes will then be counted and passed on to Gordon Rennie and Karl Richardson so that whatever outcome you decide, its results will be reflected in the final episode that will run in issue 74 of Warhammer Monthly.

Not only that, but the results of the vote will also affect the outcome of the Eye of Terror campaign as a whole (see below) which will have major ramifications on the future of the Warhammer 40,000 universe. Will a crushing victory over Abaddon's black horde herald a new dawn for the Imperium of Man or will the new millennium be forever remembered as the era of Chaos? We won't know until all the results are in but whatever happens, you can help shape the future.

This summer the Eye of Terror worldwide campaign begins and it's time for you to prepare you forces.

In the last 10,000 years Aaddon has made twelve Incursions out of the Eye of Torror. These have ranged in size from small raiding forces that have posed little threat to the Imperium, to huge warfleets that have reaped countless millions of Imperial lives. Abbadon's twelfth crusade also saw him seize control of two of the mysterious Blackstone fortresses. Despite this all of Abaddon's crusades so far have been thwarted by the Imperium and its allies.

Recently, however, Astropaths and those who can read the Emperor's tarot have told tales of a time of darkness approaching, of an alliace of the mightiest warhosts under the banner of Abaddon. Other reports suggest the Eldar of Ulthwé are preparing for a great conflict, and the armies of Cadia have been placed on high alert to face the coming storm.

This summer you will be able to influence the fate of the Imperium. All Games Workshop stores will be running special scenarios, painting and modelling tutorials, competitions, roadshows and much more to tie in with the Eye of Terror campaign. Every battle counts as the stores will be entering results on a daily basis. It is time to choose your allegiance. Sign up now to take part in the action!

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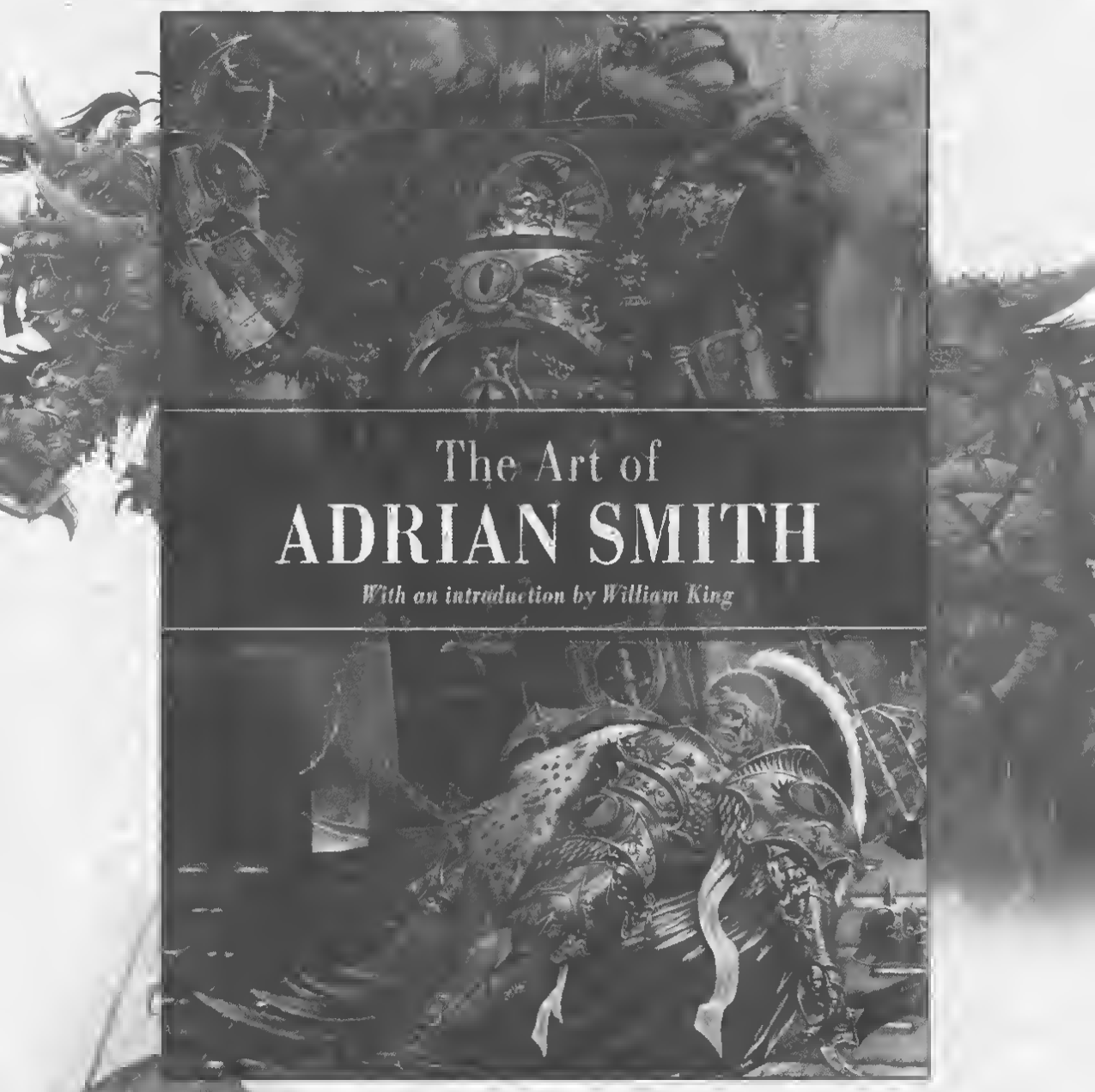
A Glimpse into
INSANITY



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With an introduction by William King

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ALEXANDER THE GREAT

On the 23rd of May, Christian and Matt from the Black Library packed their bags and headed south to Bristol to attend the National Comics Convention. Anyone who is anyone in the comic industry was going to be there, including the very talented and chatty Jim Alexander, writer of Cartoon Network's Cow and Chicken, I R Baboon, I am Weasel and Johnny Bravo – and the wonderful new Deathwatch script for us. Matt sat him down for a friendly chat and a beer.

Matt: So, how are you enjoying the convention?

Jim: It's alright, yeah. It's been quite quiet for me. I'm doing all right at the moment so there's not the same desperation on my part that's normally involved on these occasions.

M: You mean you're not having to sell yourself so much?

J: Well, as I'm here I make the effort to speak to people. Obviously Christian (Christian Dunn, BL Master of the Monthly, currently propping up the bar) is the man to speak to at the moment as I have a few projects with him I'd very much like to do. One of them we were discussing was the Dark Angel character with no name from the Deathwatch script. I suggested a separate strip for him.

M: Did Christian seem happy with the idea?

J: He seemed ecstatic!

M: Really?

J: Well he didn't actually look ecstatic, but if you look behind the eyes it was there. The glasses hide everything. But behind the lenses he was in the height of ecstasy. So it's good to come to these things to talk to people. I work full time in Glasgow so it can be difficult.

M: So you're not a full time comic writer?

J: No, I'm a systems consultant in the pensions industry. I analyse data for various companies, and that's my nine to five job, then I come home, have my tea, watch Eastenders, spend some time with my son, then from about eight o'clock till ten I do my work.

M: So a pretty busy day then?

J: Well, it's my decision. I tell myself that it's freelance work and I can walk away from it any time, but it's in my blood, it's something I want to do. So, it's tough, but I still end up messing around and I find myself doing nothing at all. I find the time and I'm fairly disciplined. It's probably a Dan Abnett methodology, but obviously he takes it to extremes. I mean, I don't think he sleeps, judging by his output, so I can't complain too much. But I'm hanging in there.

M: Well, we all love Deathwatch.

J: Well if people don't like Deathwatch let me know and I'll hunt them down!

Blood Rites. Art by P J Holden

M: Do you love your job?

J: I don't know if love is the right word. It's more of a passion, there's a whole lot of emotions involved, a lot of tenacity, wanting to prove to yourself constantly. It's a way of judging yourself. Essentially I want to write stuff that I enjoy and other people enjoy and that gets published. It's something I like doing. Some people like pottering about in the garden, others like ironing, and probably have the lobotomy scars to prove it. So it's like a hobby.

M: And you get paid for it as well.

J: Yes, but obviously not enough. I'm sure Christian's told you that I've moaned about the page rate before!

M: He's a hard taskmaster.

J: He's a numbers man, a cruncher! But Deathwatch book one is an important script for me to do and I'm grateful for the chance to do it. I'm hoping to develop the story, and develop some of the characters. Certainly Christian is into that idea as well. I'm looking forward to doing more.

M: Where did the idea come from?

J: The idea came a couple of years ago at a convention in Bristol. We almost agreed on the plot there and then and it's taken a wee while to actually come out. It was scripted a while ago and I was just waiting for a slot to become available. I had no control over that. The writer gets all the control until he finishes the last draft of the script, then it gets accepted and it's in other peoples' hands. But it's coming out now, and I have very fixed ideas on where I want to take it. Hopefully if we get some positive feedback then we can take it from there.

M: Do you like the social side of the business?

J: Well the conventions are where the deals are done, and it's done there and then. It's like planting seeds. The good thing with Christian is the continuity. You can discuss an idea, then it comes out. He's good to work with and likes to talk through ideas.

At this point Christian wanders over from the bar and sits down for a chat as well.

J: We were just talking about planting seeds, Deathwatch being a very good example, and how it was two years ago that it started. Oh look, he's wiping away a tear! This man yearns for nostalgia!

Christian: So do you!

J: But seeds have been thrown for the Dark Angel script as well. If you plant seeds to release things then my point of view is: let's get it done! Then we can see how it grows. It may be a complete and utter disaster and everybody hates it, but you can rewind.

M: You can find something else to do.

J: Yes, my new hobby involving potted plants. Much better!

M: So what other seeds are germinating?

COVERING FIRE!
DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO, KHEST. DON'T LET THEM TAKE YOU ALIVE.
UNDERSTOOD.
WE OF THE IMPERIAL FISTS FIGHT FOR THE SALVATION OF THE PLANET.

Charnel House. Art by Jim Brady.

MEANWHILE, AT THE END OF A TITANIC STRUGGLE THE ORK FORCES HAVE WON THROUGH.
YA BEAUTY!!!
BUT EVEN AS CHATAK GIVES OUT HIS VICTORY CRY...

Better Da Warboss. Art by Wayne England.

J: When you start talking about certain scenes and how we are going to end it, how much of a close up on a character's face we're going to have in the last panel then I think we're moving on slightly here, I'd better come up with a new idea. And I get on quite well with Christian, and he's obviously got an interest in what I'm doing.

C: I'm going to leave now, so you can get back to telling the truth!

J: Yeah! He doesn't have a clue what he's talking about! No, we get on well, we can discuss other things like football, not just work. There's a certain amount of antagonism between the writer and the editor so we can balance it out by talking about normal things. It gives us some ballast, which is very important. There's a natural tension between what the writer wants and what the editor wants, and where he's coming from and where the writer's coming from. If you took that in isolation without talking about football and slagging him off for being a Leeds United supporter it would be a much more difficult way of working. That's something Christian and myself agree on and that's the way he does business.

M: So he's ok really then?

J: Yeah!

M: So where do you think you'll be in five years time?

J: In the morgue! My wife thinks I'll be in the morgue. When I play football with my little boy I can feel my life span shortening. I'm not one of these people who plans very far ahead, though. If someone asks me what I'm doing next week I'll struggle to remember. So I have a spreadsheet that tells me what to do. If someone asks me what I did on my weekend I tend to sit there for a couple of minutes trying to remember.

M: You should put it on your spreadsheet.

J: Aye! That might sound melodramatic but I need it to plan ahead. When you're doing a story like Deathwatch and you've got deadlines and you need to get it done you've already got it all set out.

M: Do you ever suffer from writers' block?

J: Not really. I have a very methodical way of working. Very structured.

M: Do you get used to writing at particular times of the day?

J: It's about discipline, and sitting down and doing it. I'm doing a short story for Inferno! at the moment, or at least trying to. And when I did the first draft it was just a matter of getting it down on paper. Then you can go back and fix it. I havn't done a short story for a while. The last one was for the 2000AD Megazine about six years ago, so it was a bit intimidating.

M: So do you worry about what people think about your work?

J: Well when I was doing work for the Megazine the first thing I'd do was look at the letters pages and when you got praised it was very nice. But it was great fun reading someone else getting slagged off! But when it's you it's not particularly pleasant, and it happened to me a few times. I'm open to constructive criticism but it takes a while to recover sometimes. But if you pay your money then people are entitled to their opinion.

M: So what annoys you most?

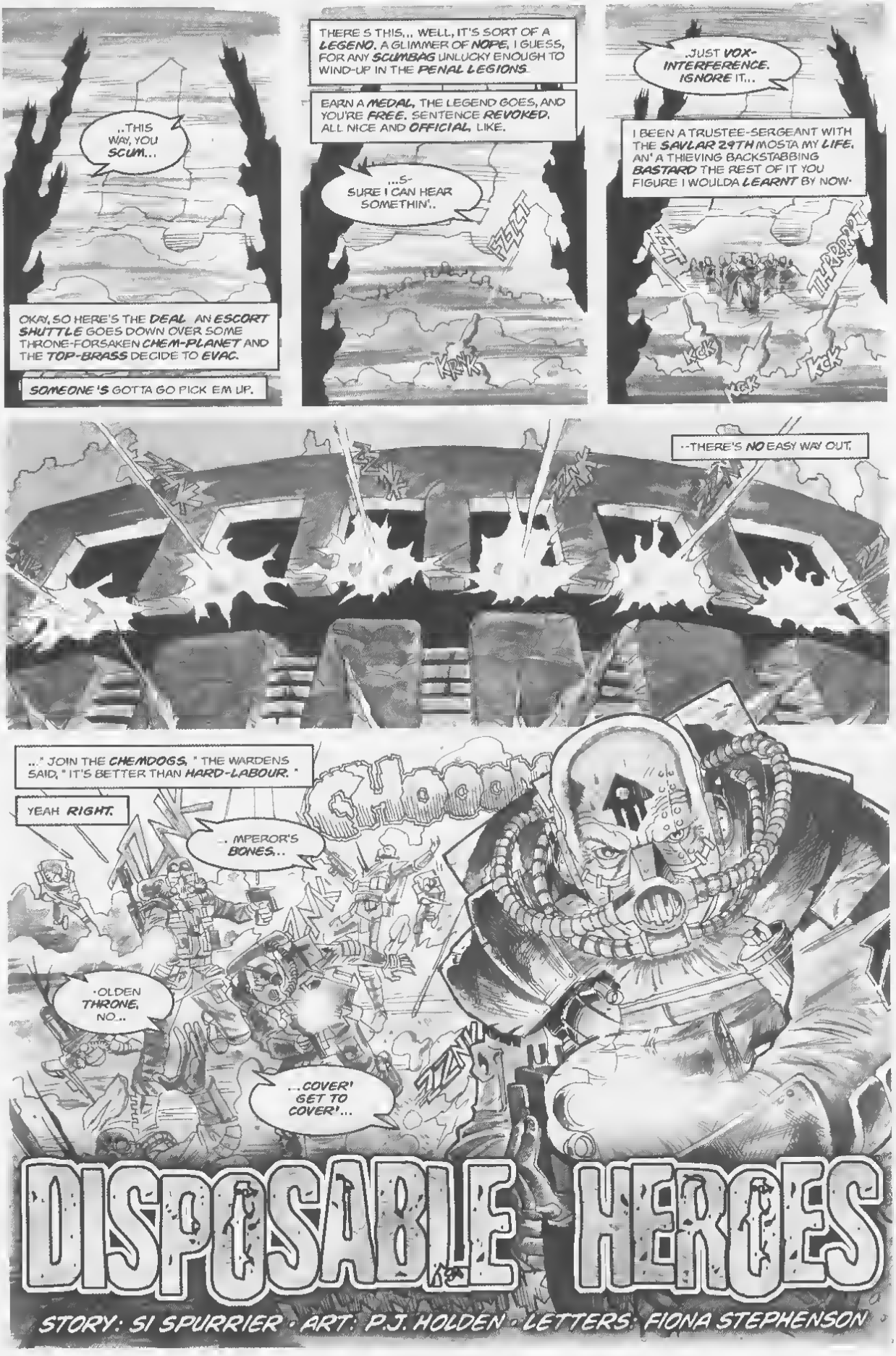
J: Celtic winning the championship the last couple of times. *(Editors note: The day after this interview was conducted Rangers actually won the Scottish Premier League on goal difference from Celtic.)*

M: Thanks, Jim!

J: Great! Cheers. Time for a pint.

TO TURN THE TIDE... ARMIES ARE WHAT I NEED.
YOU MUST HAND OVER THE TECH-PRIEST.
GOVERNOR BRAUER, YOUR ARMIES WILL COME VERY SOON. YOU HAVE MY ASSURANCE ON THIS. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, YOU MUST DO SOMETHING FOR ME.

Deathwatch. Art by Dan Lapham


..THIS WAY, YOU SCUM...
OKAY, SO HERE'S THE DEAL. AN ESCORT SHUTTLE GOES DOWN OVER SOME THRONE-FORSAKEN CHEM-PLANET AND THE TOP-BRASS DECIDE TO EVAC.
SOMEONE'S GOTTA GO PICK 'EM UP.
THERE'S THIS... WELL, IT'S SORT OF A LEGEND. A GLIMMER OF NOPE, I GUESS, FOR ANY SCUMBAG UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO WIND-UP IN THE PENAL LEGIONS.
EARN A MEDAL, THE LEGEND GOES, AND YOU'RE FREE. SENTENCE REVOKED, ALL NICE AND OFFICIAL, LIKE.
...S-SURE I CAN HEAR SOMETHIN'..
FZZT
KRNK
..JUST VOX-INTERFERENCE. IGNORE IT...
I BEEN A TRUSTEE-SERGEANT WITH THE SAVLAR 29TH MOSTA MY LIFE, AN' A THIEVING BACKSTABBING BASTARD THE REST OF IT YOU FIGURE I WOULDA LEARNT BY NOW.
FZZT
THRRRT
KCK
KCK
KCK
--THERE'S NO EASY WAY OUT.
..." JOIN THE CHEMDOGS, " THE WARDENS SAID, " IT'S BETTER THAN HARD-LABOUR. "
YEAH RIGHT.
.. MPEROR'S BONES..
·OLDEN THRONE, NO..
...COVER! GET TO COVER!...
DISPOSABLE HEROES
STORY: SI SPURRIER · ART: P.J. HOLDEN · LETTERS: FIONA STEPHENSON

...VRYONE JUST STAY COOL, HEAR ME?
..VE WE STILL GOT A FIX ON THE DROP-POD, HANZEL..?
...HANZEL..?
..RECKON HE S HURT, SARGEANT... D-DIBS ON HIS K-RATIONS..
..WARP DAMMIT.. GIMME THE TECH...
AUSPEX SAYS EAST.. STRONG READING...
BLOODY NAVY FOPS BETTER BE WORTH ALLA THI..
CRAK
NUUUuuuuh!
...S-SARGE? .. SNIPERS UP AHEA... WHAT ACTIO..?
UPID FRAGGIN' QUESTION! TAKE EM OUT..!
FLAMERS IN POSITION, SARGE ..
...BURN, SCUMFRAGGERS! YEAH YEAH-YEAH!..
FOOOOOOMPH

HEH HEH HEH, DONE *FRIED* SOME *VERMIN*...
...NY REMAINS? WHAT *WERE* THEY?...
...BREAK IT UP, DOGS SIGNAL'S *THIS* WA...
-WHAT *NOW?*...
...-AAA-...
KRAK
...THERE! UP THERE! BRING IT DOWN!...
..WHO HIT IT? WHO HIT IT?
...ON'T MAKE NO *SENSE*...
.. AME DOWN ON ITS *OWN*...
...SOME SORTA *XENOTECH*...
...ECKON IT'S *VALUABLE*, SARGE?...
...OU GUYS *HEAR* THAT?...
blip blip blip blip
...AW, *HELL*...
blip blip

SPEND ANY TIME ON THE **DEAD MOONS** AND YOU GET USED TO **SHUTTING YOURSELF OFF.**

IT'S LIKE... IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE **WORLD** GOES STRAIGHT TO **HELL**, AND NOTHIN SEEMS **REAL** NO MORE. YOU GOTTA LOOK AFTER **NUMBER ONE**, COS NO **OTHER** FRAGGER WILL.

...AN'T FEEL MUH LEGS .. MUH...
...H-HH... HUH... A-AAAA H-HELP ME ..
TIMES LIKE **THAT**, A MAN REALISES BEING A **HERO** AND BEING AN **IDIOT** ARE KINDA **THE SAME THING**

..ELLO? ANYONE TH..?
..OMMUNICATOR'S BROKEN...OW... DON'T KNO..ANYONE'S RECEIVI..?
KREE
ZIK
POK
..THIS... ADMIRAL GRYAN . EED HELP

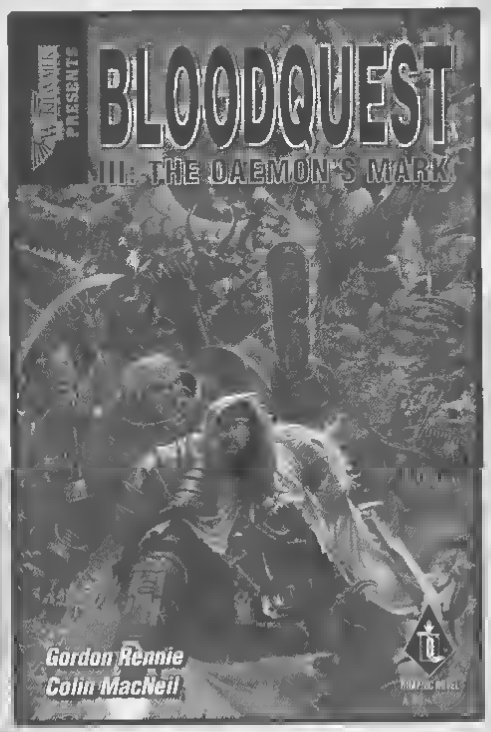
..A-ADMIRAL? YUH.. YOU'RE ALIVE?
WANK
ZZZT

TAKES A LOT TO BRING A MAN BACK FROM THAT NOWHERE-PLACE IN HIS HEAD...
. ADMIRAL? D-DON'T WORRY, OKAY? I GOT A FIX ON YOU
..ON'T KNOW HO..ONGER I'VE GOT ..ADLY WOUNDED ..THE OTHE...N A BAD WAY

LIKE MAYBE MAYBE THE CHANCE TO BE A HERO AFTER ALL..
ADMIRAL? ARE YOU THERE? HOW MANY OFFICERS SURVIVED?
IS THAT Y-?

-YOU ..?
..SO I'M.. ECORDING THIS MESSAGE– AYBACK ON A LOOP ...HELLO, HELLO? .
. ITAL THAT WE BE RETRIEV– OON AS POSSI
GET A MEDAL.. SENTENCE REVOKED ALL NICE AND OFFICIAL.
YEAH. I REALLY SHOULDA KNOWN--
--THERE'S NO EASY WAY OUT
GWAH
.ELLO?... ANYONE TH...? OMMUNICATOR'S BROKEN... OW
THE END

BLOODQUEST III



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AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHH!
TITAN
OMNISSIAH
PART THREE
STORY: DAN ABNETT • ART ANTHONY WILLIAMS • LETTERS: FIONA STEPHENSON
ZU-TEH! ABAK! ZWEH! ZWEH!
THE EMPEROR PROTECTS! THE EMPEROR PROTECTS!
GAAHK!
OHHHG!
CHUKK!

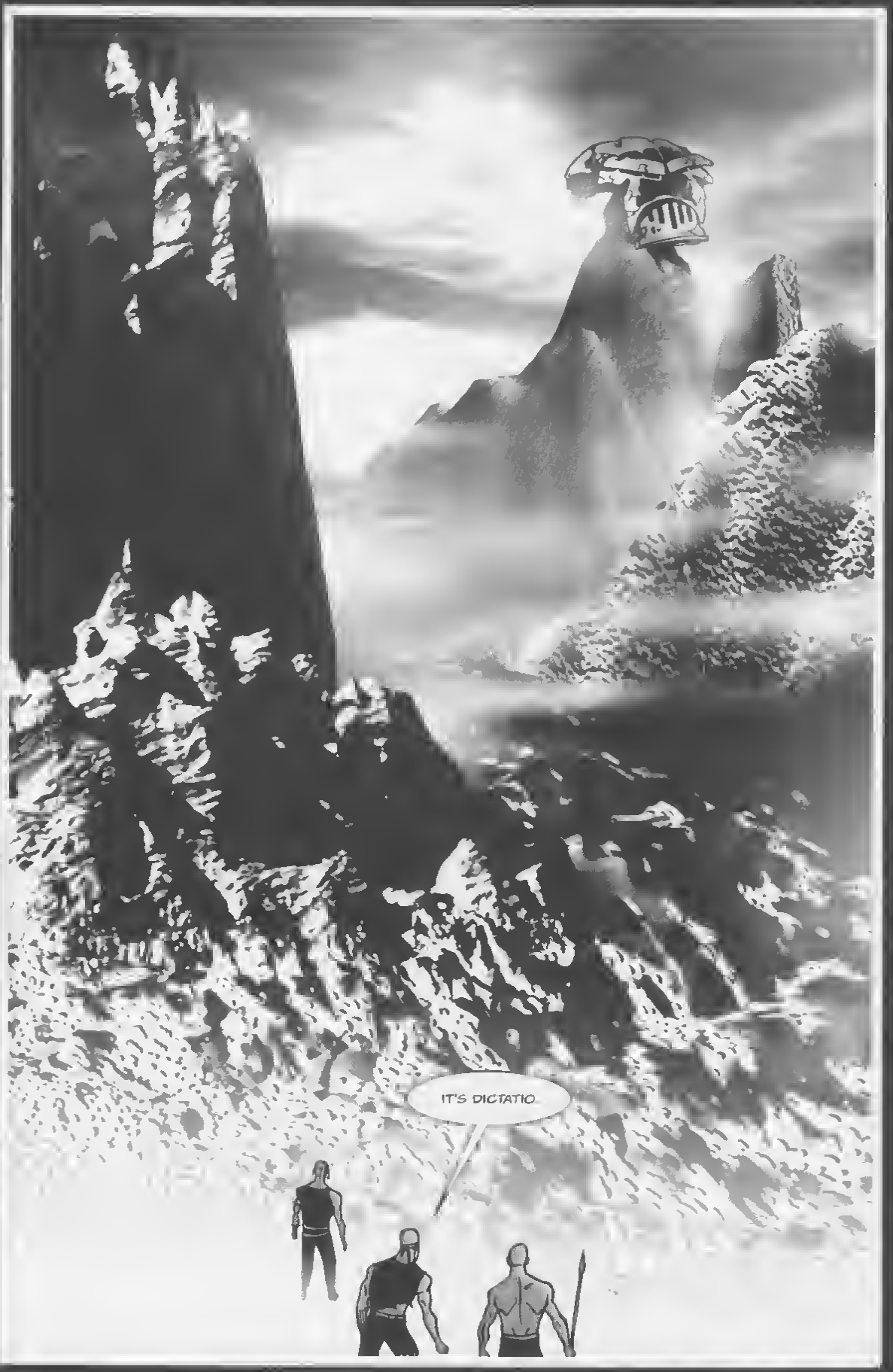
ABAK! ZU-TEH!
ZYGO! CUT DORN FREE, DAMMIT!
SWUCKKKK!
EERRK!
NAH-ETA!
Y-YES, MODERATI-
AHHH!
GET OFF ME! GET OFF!
SKRUTCH!
GROOHHH!
ZYGO!
ZYGO... IS HE FREE YET? ZYGO!
SMAKKK!
NAH-ETA! ZU-TEH!

ENGINEER DORN! HOLD ON, SIR! I'LL HAVE YOU OUT IN A MOMENT!
Z-ZYGO? THRONE OF TERRA... ZYGO?!
HE'S FREE, MODERATI!
FOR ALL THE GOOD IT'LL DO US DAMN! SO MANY OF THEM!
THIS YOUR IDEA OF A RESCUE, MODERATI VOSS?
NEXT TIME?
NICE TO SEE YOU TOO, ENGINEER NEXT TIME I WON'T BOTHER
GGRRRRWWNNNNDDDDDD!
AIIIIIIEE! ZU-MAK!
KHA! KHA-MAH TE!
OH CRAP!
WHAT WAS
SHUT UP AND RUN, YOU FOOLS! IN THE NAME OF THE EMPEROR

DDDDDZZZZZDDDDDDO
...SHUT UP AND RUN!

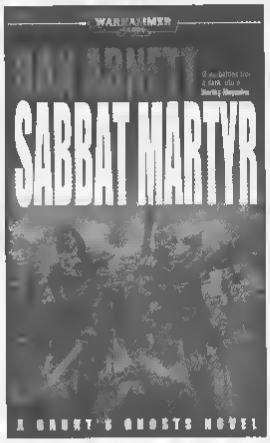
GGRRRNNNNDDDDD!
GGRRRNNNNDDDDD!
AHHHH!
WHAAAAA!
NAAAAAH!
SPLOOOOSHHH!

AHHK!
GLOOOK!
SPLORT!
COME ON, LAD! COME ON! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
kaff kaff-kaff!
WHAT... in the name of sanity. WHAT WAS THAT?
YOU SAY THAT LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE.
OF COURSE I HAVEN'T!
WELL, THEY'RE KINDA HARD TO MISS!
kaff! kaff!
THERE'S MORE THAN ONE OF THEM?
DAH! BY THE AQUILA, MODERATI! WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING SINCE YOU GOT HERE? HIDING WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED?
I SAY!
HEY, I SAY!
LOOK, FOR EMPEROR'S SAKE!
WHAT--
.OH.
HOLY THRONE OF TERRA.



NEXT: GRAVEYARD OF TITANS

GAUNT'S GHOSTS



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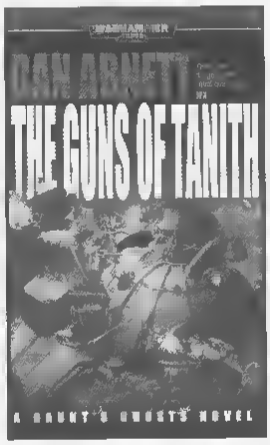

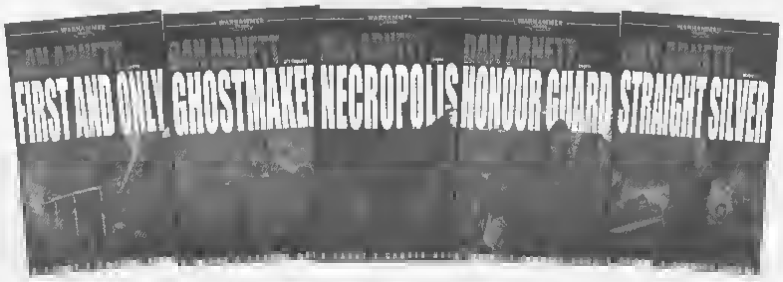

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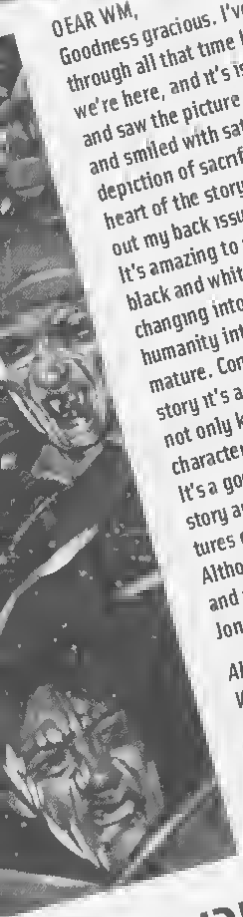


DEAR WM,

Goodness gracious. I've never missed an issue of Warhammer Monthly and through all that time I have read, or waited to read, Bloodquest. And now, we're here, and it's issue 68 and it's over. Done. finished. I turned the page and saw the picture of Leonatos and his Blood Angels in the very last frame and smiled with satisfaction. It ended exceptionally well, with an excellent depiction of sacrifice, something Space Marines are good at and the driving heart of the story. Well done to you all for an excellent series – think I'll dig out my back issues and re-read the lot of it.

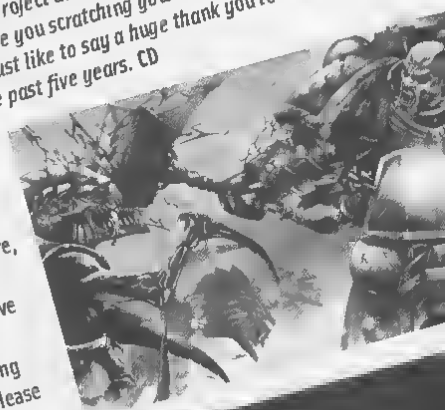
It's amazing to see how much it changed since it's first episode – plain black and white artwork with 'random encounter' type stories, slowly changing into detailed artwork with a continuing story which injected a humanity into the Space Marines which I think helped the story grow and mature. Constant battling is fine for the actual wargaming hobby – in a story it's a whole different kettle of fish. Good work to Gordon and Colin for not only keeping the plot and visuals flowing but for making the story and characters work.

It's a good place to end it, too – anything more might cheapen the Bloodquest story and turn into a derivative of the original strip, a kind of 'further adventures of' which would pale against the grandeur of the original.

Although it was sad to see it end, I still have Kal Jerico, Hellbrandt Grimm and the prospect of future Lone Wolves stories to keep me occupied!

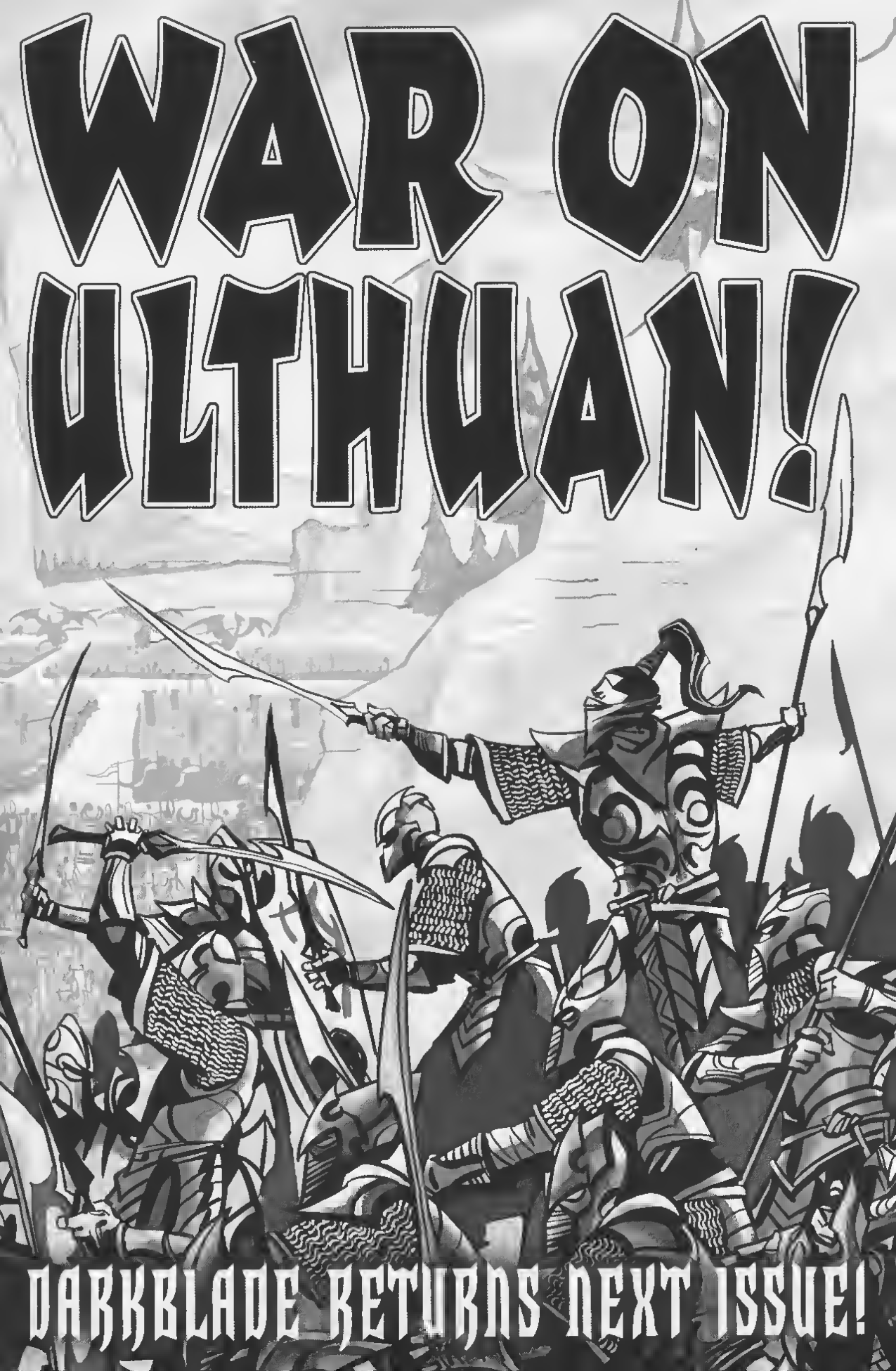
Jonathan Hicks, Lichfield

Although Bloodquest may have ended, Gordon and Colin will still be putting in regular appearances in the pages of Warhammer Monthly. Gordon is currently writing away on the further adventures of Kal Jerico and when the results of the 'Last Stand on Yayor' vote are in he'll be frantically scripting the final episode in time for the October issue. Colin is already putting his mind towards his next big Warhammer Monthly project and if the early indications are anything to go by then it's not only going to blow you away but should also have you scratching your heads (in a good way of course) as well. All that's off in the future though and for now we'd just like to say a huge thank you to Colin and Gordon for making Bloodquest the huge success that it's been for the past five years. CD



INFO DUMP

DAN ABNETT'S BIG BOOTY: The third installment of the Fell Cargo series arrived in the Black Library recently and is scheduled for publication in Inferno! 38. Rumours of a Fell Cargo novel are, as yet, unsubstantiated but keep watching this space. LONE WOLVES HAVE GOT IT COVERED: Skold Greypelt and his wolfpack are set to return in our giant-sized Christmas issue in a massive tale from Dan Abnett and Karl Richardson. They're also on the cover too, courtesy of Patrick Goddard. Look out for issue 76 hitting the shelves in mid-December. If you can't wait that long then make sure you check out the Lone Wolves oversized hardcover graphic novel due for release at Gamesday 2003. THAT'S IT FOR THIS MONTH. ISSUE 72 ON SALE 23 AUGUST 2003.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